

spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." So says Bro. Peter, the old Apostle, who was one of the twelve that were inspired by an extraordinary divine interposition of God through the Holy Spirit, as predicted by the Prophet Joel, reiterated by the forerunner of Christ and by Christ himself when he promised them the comforter—the spirit of truth—who should bring to their remembrance the things he had said unto them. Not other, or new things, but the things he had taught them. When brought to their remembrance they were written, and handed down from generation to generation, and from age to age, until this present generation and will continue until the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and heaven and earth shall pass away; for JESUS CHRIST, GOD MANIFEST in the FLESH, the EMMANUEL, GOD with us, himself declared Heaven and earth shall pass away but my WORD shall NEVER pass away. The special manifestations and gifts of the Holy Spirit were for special purposes. Great care should be exercised by ministers and others so that we do not misapply, and attach to ourselves or attribute to others, power that GOD has not delegated, or even promised to the children of men beyond the special divine interposition of the "I am" for the purpose of authenticating beyond a possible doubt the Christian system, and thus give to those who accept the conditions of pardon, and keep the testimonies of Jehovah God faithfully, an assurance of eternal life. All manifestations of the "Holy Spirit," besides his convicting power (before baptism) were special manifestations for special purposes. Not for the cleansing from sin, because the "Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin," so says the Apostle John. He evidently knew what he was saying, when he wrote that sentence. In closing this little essay permit me to say that all who will gladly receive the word of God, exercise Gospel faith, have Gospel repentance, and Gospel baptism (Trine Immersion, for no other is Gospel) have the promise of remission of sins, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit in his divine comforting power; and possessing this divine influence all are made to rejoice in hope of having an abundant entrance into

the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, by keeping the commandments, and testimonies. All such shall eventually enter in through the gates into the great city, the new Jerusalem, there to share that inheritance which is incorruptible, and undefiled and that fadeth not away. Dear reader, may this be our happy lot when we bid farewell to this vain world is the desire and prayer of the writer.

Blanco Pa.

## Writers' Department.

### SELF CONFIDENCE.

SELECTED BY MRS Z. H. COPP.

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him. Prov. xxvi, 12.

See how self-confidence his friend doth treat,

Nor heeds the danger from beneath his feet;

With head erect, he proudly stalks along,

The warning voice is but an idle song;

As to the precipice he draws more nigh.

But deaf and blind, he neither sees nor hears,

From friends or foes he nothing wants or fears;

He "knows, and that's enough—alright," when lo!

At once he falls into the gulf below: Adown the rocks he tumbles o'er and o'er,

And sinks in darkness to rise no more.

The above shows a traveler in the greatest peril. He is on the brink of an awful precipice: he knows it not. But this is not the worst of his case; he is confident in his knowledge, and that he is fully prepared for every emergency, although he has not examined any book of roads, or any charts or maps; nor has he made inquiries of others who have traveled these parts before him. A friend is seen, who endeavors to apprise him of his danger; he calls to him, but he turns a deaf ear to his remonstrances and still proceeds. As he draws near the fatal brink his friend knowing his danger exerts

himself to the utmost to have him stop to listen, but for one moment; but no he has no need advice; on he goes. The ground which is hollow, gives way beneath his feet; he falls, and is instantly dashed to pieces. The name of this man is "Self-confidence." The moral of this is, that dangers stand thick all through the path of human life—dangers such as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, with their numerous attendants. False doctrines also, the tendency of which is to destroy the happiness of mankind, prevail. They are covered with a flimsy garb, which deceives superficial observers.

Moreover, youth is presumptuous, self-willed and self-confident. They are too much inclined to follow the light which their own vanity has kindled. But their self confidence does not remove the dangers from their path, nor render them invulnerable. But man is ignorant, how shall he know? Helpless, what shall he do? If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God. "Do," ponder well the paths of thy feet. Lean not to thine own understanding. He that trusts to his own heart is a fool. In all thy ways acknowledge God; he will direct thy paths. Here, then, is the conclusion the of the whole matter; imminent perils surround the youth, but the greatest of all perils is the danger of trusting to his own heart. Lean upon God and all will be well. Though weak and ignorant, yet God is wise and strong, able to guide and preserve all who trust in him.

The mariner who should put to sea without chart or compass, trusting to his own knowledge, would without doubt, on the first stormy night, repent heartily of his folly. O how much greater is the folly of those who, trusting to self, neglect to use the lamp of God's trust, or to seek the enlightening influences of His Holy Spirit, or to follow the advice and wise and good.

The case of Pharaoh, the Egyptian monarch, affords a striking example of self-righteousness. When the children of Israel had left the house of bondage and were well on their journey toward the land of promise, the King confiding in his strength exclaimed, "I will yursue, I will overtake," and presumptuously set forth for that purpose.